



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE HIGHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE MARCH 12, 2015

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Testimony Supporting House Bill No. 6845

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GOVERNOR
CONCERNING HIGHER EDUCATION

Senator Bartolomeo, Representative Willis and distinguished members of the Higher Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on House Bill No. 6845, An Act Implementing the Budget Recommendations of the Governor Concerning Higher Education.

This bill implements provisions of the Governor's recommended budget.

Section 1 provides \$150,000 in FY 2016, and \$300,000 in FY 2017 from the Governor's Scholarship funds in the Office of Higher Education, to New Haven Promise to provide merit-based student financial aid to un-documented individuals pursuing a full-time or part-time undergraduate degree at a Connecticut public institutions of higher education.

Sections 2, 3 and 7 harmonize the assessment method for private occupational schools paying into the student protection account. Section 32 of the Governor's revenue bill transfers \$2.5 million from this account to the General fund in FY 2016. There are sufficient funds in the account to pay claims if a schools closes.

Section 4 eliminates new need or merit based awards through the Governor's scholarship to students attending private institutions of higher education. The Governor's recommended budget eliminates \$4.6 million in FY 2016, and \$7.6 million in FY 2017 for this purpose. Students attending private institutions and already receiving awards in FY 2015, would continue to receive awards, as long as they maintain eligibility.

Sections 5, 6 and 7 repeal student financial assistance payments to children of deceased or disabled veterans or those missing in action. The Governor's recommended budget eliminates \$3,800 in FY 2016 and FY 2017 for this purpose.

Section 7 also repeals the Kirklyn M. Kerr program at the University of Connecticut, which provides grants to students pursuing veterinary medicine at out of state institutions. The Governor's recommended budget eliminates \$400,000 in FY 2016 and FY 2017 for this purpose.

Additionally, this section repeals the English language learner educator loan reimbursement program within the Office of Higher Education. The Governor's recommended budget eliminates \$95,000 in FY 2016 and FY 2017 for this purpose.

I respectfully request that the committee support this bill. I would like to again thank the committee for the opportunity to present this testimony, and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.